Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00111 101821Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /091 W
----------107712 110333Z /64
R 101731Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5995
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBSSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0111

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MR
SUBJECT: GUYANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS TO DISCUSS WESTERN SAHARA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 64

1. GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS TOLD DCM JANUARY 4 THAT ALGERIA'S UN PERMREP, ACTING WITH SUPPORT OF CUBA'S PERMREP HAD BEEN LOBBYING AMONG UN AMBASSADORS FROM NACC MEMBER STATES IN AN ATTEMPT TO HOLD A MEETING OF AMBASSADORS OF NACC COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS WESTERN SAHARA AND FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA. A MEETING OF AMBASSADORS WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON A NACC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN HAVANA ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

2. WILLS SAID HE DID NOT FAVOR HOLDING EITHER MEETING. THE GOG DID NOT WISH TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE WESTERN
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00111 101821Z

SAHARA PROBLEM OR ON FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA PRIOR TO ACTION BY THE OAU. SECONDLY, WILLS SAID MAURITANIA HAD THE RIGHT TO SEEK ASSISTANCE TO DEFEND ITSELF FROM AGGRESSION. HE EXPRESSED IRRITATION THAT INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS ALGERIA, WERE SEEKING PETTY GAINS BY ENLISTING NAM SUPPORT. IN HIS VIEW THE NAM SHOULD BE USED FOR BROADER ISSUES AFFECTING A NUMBER

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OF COUNTRIES.

3. WILLS SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED GUYANA'S UN PERMREP TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON THE MATTER BY SEEKING TO AVOID HAVING A MEETING OF UN AMBASSADORS. THE SUBSEQUENT CONSENSUS AMONG NACC AMBASSADORS WAS THAT THE PROPOSED AMBASSADORS MEETING SHOULD BE POSTPONED SINE DIE. WILLS WAS PLEASED OVER THIS AND PREDICTED THAT A MEETING WOULD NEVER BE HELD.

4. COMMENT. GUYANA'S SYMPATHY APPEARS TO BE ON THE SIDE OF MAURITANIA ON THE ISSUE OF ITS USE OF FRENCH ASSISTANCE, AND IN GENERAL IT OPPOSES THE USE OF NACC FOR PURPOSES SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH MOTIVATE ALGERIA ON THIS MATTER. GOG PRACTICE IS TO SEEK TO PRESERVE APPEARANCE OF NAM UNITY AND AVOID CONFRONTATIONS IF POSSIBLE. IN THE END, GOG PROBABLY WILL ENDORSE WHATEVER DECISION THE OAU MAKES ON THE WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE.
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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